

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*State of Texas Building, 401 E. Franklin, 5th Floor
Monday, January 10, 2005*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charlotte Johnson, Chair - Parks Board
Oscar Mestas, Vice Chair - Texas Forest Service
Dr. Tammy Bendele – Horticultural Background
Peter Beste – At Large
Eileen Karlsruher - At Large
Georgina Maldonado – West Texas Urban Forestry Council
Wynn Anderson, At Large

Absent:

Lewis Wright, Landscape Architect
John White, Arborist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brent Pearson, Arborist - Street Department
Kevin Elkins, Assistant City Attorney
Rosemary G. Borrego, Secretary - Street Department

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes –

Peter Beste stated that on the Minutes for December 13 (Item 3) that the Community Forestry Work Plan was included in the items to be accomplished by November 2005 to qualify for Tree City USA. He stated that the Community Forestry Work Plan is not a requisite for Tree City USA. Everyone agreed.

Motion by Wynn Anderson to approve the Minutes to the meeting of December 13, 2004; seconded by Eileen Karlsruher. Motion carried.

3. Discussion and Action on Memorial Tree Program – Parks Department

No one from Parks Department was present at the meeting. Brent Pearson received an update today from the Parks Department on the Memorial Tree Program applications. To date we are at sixteen applications received for a total amount of \$1,925.

Mr. Pearson stated he has received a few comments from the public; the biggest comment is the jump from \$50 seed level to \$175 tree level. Discussion continued on how the \$50 donation is used (for promotion, printing), and the \$175 for the tree level (for purchase of the tree, planting, and maintenance for a year). Other than that he has received all good comments. Ms. Johnson stated we may need to improve the brochure in the way it's presented to the public.

4. Update and Discussion on the Landscape Ordinance – Brent Pearson

Brent Pearson stated that there are no new updates. Discussion followed on the plan to proceed with the Adopt-a-Median Program; whether or not it pertains to the landscape ordinance and whether or not the language regarding adopt-a-median is included as part of the landscape ordinance.

Eileen Karlsruher suggested we bring up the Adopt-a-Median Program to Ms. Joyce Wilson, City Manager, when they present the Community Forestry Work Plan on Monday, the 24th of January at 10:00 a.m., to see if she has any idea as to when the landscape ordinance will go to Council.

Motion by Eileen Karlsruher that we allow our legal counsel to speak with Joyce Wilson about the Landscape Ordinance and Adopt-a-Median prior to the January 24 meeting. Motion seconded by Wynn Anderson; all in favor.

5. Discussion and Action on Adopt a Median Program.

Brent Pearson stated that they have a tentative draft and are ready to meet with the sub-committee (Oscar Mestas, Chair; Wynn Anderson, and Dr. Tammy Bendele) to make final changes. He will e-mail a copy to the sub-committee members, wait for their input, and then will have a joint review meeting to finish it up. He will then send it to the Board to review for comments and discussion at the February meeting. The sub-committee will meet on Tuesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. in Mr. Oscar Mestas' Office.

6. Update and Discussion on Approved Tree and Plant List – Brent Pearson

Brent Pearson stated that there were no applications for Modification.

7. Update and Discussion on Tree Care Ordinance – Oscar Mestas

Oscar Mestas started working on it today and should have the first draft by the February meeting.

8. Update and Discussion on Community Forestry Work Plan – Dr. Tammy Bendele

Ms. Charlotte Johnson stated that they (Legal and staff support) will meet with the City Manager on January 24 at 10:00 to present the plan to her. Dr. Bendele will add a cover letter and highlight the budget items. The Board will take direction from the City Manager to add numbers to the budget items, which will be supplied by the Street Department and Parks & Recreation Department.

9. **OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:** Rosa Morales from Representative Rojas' Office, District 7 – Attended the meeting on behalf of Representative Rojas to ask the Board if they are interested in assisting Fire Station No. 18 located at 7901 San Jose Road, in developing a model for landscaping at the Fire Station using plants that don't use much water. Residents would be able to observe and get ideas for their own yards. She stated that there are other locations with a similar program at Texas A & M and at UTEP, but they are far from the Lower Valley. Mr. Oscar Mestas replied that this type of project would be best handled by either El Paso Green Sweep, the West Texas Forestry Council, or Keep El Paso Beautiful. Ms. Johnson also stated that the Tree Board Ordinance does not give the Tree Board authority to solicit funds and raise money for projects like that, that the Tree Board's purpose is to set policy.

Mr. Mestas stated that his office and the Extension Office can offer technical assistance to the Fire Department. He suggested they attend an El Paso Green Sweep Meeting to see what they can offer. Ms. Morales was also informed of the Preferred Tree and Plant List, to which she replied that she was aware of the list. The Tree Board can offer guidance and technical assistance on the selection of plants. El Paso Green Sweep meets tomorrow at 10:30 in the Mayor's Conference Room, 10th Floor.

Motion by Wynn Anderson to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Eileen Karlsruher. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next general meeting will be Monday, February 14, 2005 at 3:30 p.m., same location.


Approved: Charlotte Johnson, Chairman

Date: Feb. 14, 2005

Rosemary G. Borrego, Secretary